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Baesler Applauds ND Presidential Scholar Candidates

BISMARCK, N.D., Feb. 9, 2016 -- State School Superintendent Kirsten Baesler said 65 North Dakota high school students have been named as potential Presidential Scholars, one of the nation's most prestigious honors for a high school student.

Each year, the U.S. Department of Education chooses up to 161 Presidential Scholars from the nation's high school seniors, including one male and one female candidate from each of the 50 states. North Dakota's Presidential Scholars will be picked from among the group of 65 students who were deemed eligible.

Most Presidential Scholar candidates are chosen because of their exceptional scores on the ACT or SAT college entrance exam. Some are picked because of promise they have demonstrated in technical education or the arts. Others are nominated by chief state school officers.

Last December, Baesler nominated 25 North Dakota seniors as potential Presidential Scholars. The group included five candidates suggested by the state Department of Career and Technical Education. Other North Dakota seniors are eligible because of their high college entrance exam scores.

Students who are eligible for the Presidential Scholar honor must fill out an application and provide other information. The application deadline falls at 5 p.m. Central time on Feb. 25, 2016.

The Department of Education will choose semifinalists for Presidential Scholar honors. The names of semifinalists will be posted online in mid-April. In early May, the names of each state's Presidential Scholars will be posted – one male and one female high school senior.

The 65 students who are eligible to apply for the Presidential Scholar are listed below, according to the high school they attend.

Barnes County North: Anthony Plumb, Wimbledon.

Beulah: Alfred Schwalbe, Beulah.

Bismarck Century (5): Rachel J. Bandy, Bismarck; Luke T. Huff Towle, Bismarck; Will S. Huff Towle, Bismarck; Sedalia Mahlum, Bismarck; Spencer K. Marchus, Bismarck.

Bismarck High (2): Erik J. Ford, Bismarck; Nicholas S. Herman, Bismarck.

Bismarck St. Mary's: Samuel Wilke, Bismarck.

(Continued)

Carrington: Keaton Erickson, Carrington.
Central Cass, Casselton: Ian Saum, Casselton.
Dickinson High: Jackson A. Smith, Dickinson.
Fargo Davies (5): Catherine Bauske, Fargo; Kaitlyn J. Kidder, Fargo; Alicia I. Shamdas, Fargo; Nathaniel Thoreson, Fargo; Ming Yu Yang, Fargo.
Fargo North (5): Nada A. Attia, Fargo; Joshua P. Court, Fargo; Sophie Johnson, Fargo; Annika Kjar, Kindred; Alexis Vannett, Fargo.
Fargo Shanley (3): William T. Kenney, Fargo; Samuel A. Magnotto, Fargo; Margaret C. von Ebers, West Fargo.
Grand Forks Central (9): Madison M. Diemert, Grand Forks; Grace E. Finney, Grand Forks; Dashley W. Foltz, Mekinock; Karleigh M. Gause, Grand Forks; Eric P. Green, Grand Forks; David A. Hettich, Grand Forks; Sophia C. Nelson, Grand Forks; Margaret J. Powell, Grand Forks; Augustus C. Tandberg, Grand Forks.
Grand Forks Red River (6): Lukas H. Chan, Grand Forks; Aidan Matheney, Grand Forks; Tai Mosley, Grand Forks; Mari A. Rustebakke, Grand Forks; Gretchen D. Schreiner, Grand Forks; Hannah Tinkler, Grand Forks.
Hillsboro: Evan Kritzberger, Hillsboro.
Jamestown: Christopher A. Sorensen, Jamestown.
Minot High Magic City (2): Kaleb D. Burnham, Minot; Gabrielle J. Kindy, Minot.
MLS Mohall High: Allison Voigt, Mohall.
New Rockford-Sheyenne: Heather Tollefson, New Rockford.
Northfield High School, Northfield, Minn.: Hannah E. Lundstrom, Hazen.
Our Redeemer's Christian School, Minot: Ethan Hinkel, Minot.
Park Christian School, Moorhead, Minn.: Jordan A. Kerr, Fargo.
Park River Area High (2): Diana K. Bata, Adams; Peyton Cole, Park River.
Phillips Exeter Academy, Exeter, N.H.: Jae Audrey DeGuerrera, Minot.
Sargent Central, Forman: Jacob Nelson, Forman.
Valley City: Mikaylah Ross, Valley City.
Wahpeton (2): Tracer Bowar, Wahpeton; Whitney Welder, Wahpeton.
West Fargo High (4): Claire F. Gramlow, Fargo; Allison S. Inman, West Fargo; Jarrett L. Meester, West Fargo; Samira M. Sadat, West Fargo.
West Fargo Sheyenne: James Kollie, West Fargo.
Williston (2): Ian J. Kalil, Williston; Eric M. Reinke, Williston.
Wyndmere: Sierra Heitkamp, Barney.

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